REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 12, 2003. Claims 1-7, 22, 24, 25, 57-60, 62, 64-69, 74, 75, 77-79, 84, 85, and 87-89 are presented for examination. Claims 1-6 and 57-59, the only claims in independent form, have been amended to define Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-7, 22, 24, 25, 57-60, 62, 64-69, 74, 75, 77-79, 84, 85, and 87-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,778,377 (Marlin et al.). Applicants submit that independent Claims 1-6 and 57-59, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from Marlin et al. for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a method of acquiring information related to a selected network device of a plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information of the selected network device. According to the method, in a first display step, a first information related to the selected network device is acquired via a network and displayed on an initial screen of a device window. The device window is a window allocated to the selected network device. In a second display step, after displaying the first information and in response to a user request for display of a second screen different from the initial screen, a second information different from the first information is acquired from the selected network device via the network. The second information is displayed on the second screen.

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One of the features of Claim 1 is that the second information is not acquired via the network and displayed unless the user makes a request after the first information is displayed. By virtue of this feature, network traffic between the user's computer and the selected network device may be reduced.

Marlin et al. relates to a table-driven graphical user interface (GUI). The GUI is used by workstations on a network to control a complex operation. As understood by Applicants, Marlin et al. teaches that at least one node on the network is a Desktop Management Interface (DMI) with an object-oriented database for storing data objects for the complex operation. The GUI is generic to any complex operation, but requires the DMI for access to data. The DMI is probed with commands generated by the GUI to obtain and display requested data. (See the abstract.)

Marlin et al. also is understood to disclose a technique for storing device information in a database called a Management Information Format (MIF) file 33 (see column 5, lines 19-31). The MIF file database is maintained by a systems manager in a managing computer and not in a network device to be managed (see column 5, lines 23-26).

Nothing has been found in Marlin et al. that is believed to teach or suggest a displaying method that includes "acquiring a first information related to the selected network device via a network and displaying the first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device," and "acquiring, in response to a user request for display of a second screen different from the initial screen after displaying the first information, a second information, different from the first information, from the selected

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network device via the network and displaying the second information on the second screen," as recited in Claim 1.

According to Claim 1, when, while displaying first information related to a selected network device on an initial screen of a device window of a computer, a user of the computer requests display of a second screen different from the initial screen, the computer then acquires a second information related to the selected network device *via a network*, and displays the second information on the second screen of the device window.

Because the computer acquires the second information via the network in response to the user's request, and does not acquire the second information if the user does not request display of the second screen, network traffic is reduced. That is, unnecessary network traffic is avoided by acquiring the second information only in response to a request by the user.

Please note that the claimed invention is not directed to a technique for storing information obtained from a device in an internal database such as a cache, but instead is directed to a technique in which a computer acquires information from a network device via a network in response to a request from a user, and the acquired information is displayed.

The Office Action asserts that Marlin et al. discloses the second display step of Claim 1 at column 15, lines 54-66; column 14, lines 15-41 and 50-66; column 15, lines 1-66; and column 16, lines 54-63. More specifically, the Office Action states that "when a browser button is pressed information for a selected DMI object will be displayed in a box (window), in addition description can be gathered for the object through the GUI." (See column 15, lines 54-66.)

Applicants submit, however, that according to the description in Marlin et al. at

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column 13, lines 32-44, the DMI is an interface used for requesting information from the MIF file database. That is, Marlin et al. is understood to merely disclose a technique for requesting information, using a DMI, from an internal database maintained in a managing computer, so that the requested information may be displayed when a browser button is pressed. In other words, Marlin et al. merely discloses internally issuing a query to a database using a DMI.

Marlin et al. is not understood to teach or suggest acquiring a second information, in response to a user request for display of a second screen different from an initial screen, after a first information is displayed, wherein the second information is acquired from a selected network device via a network, as claimed in Claim 1.

Marlin et al. also is understood to disclose a technique for acquiring current values of a dynamically changing attribute from its source (see column 13, lines 37-44). Apparently, a current value of a source is obtained using component instrumentation. However, there is no description of how a current value is obtained. Applicants believe that Marlin et al.'s database is updated without any relation to a user's operation, because if the database is updated in response to a user's operation for displaying other information, then Marlin et al. does not need an MIF file. That is, Marlin et al. fails to teach or suggest acquiring a second information, in response to a user request for display of a second screen different from an initial screen after a first information is displayed, wherein the second information is different from the first information, as claimed in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Marlin et al., and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Independent

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Claims 2-6 and 57-59 include a feature similar to that discussed above, in which a second information related to a selected network device is acquired and displayed in response to a user's request, after a first information related to the selected network device is displayed. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.
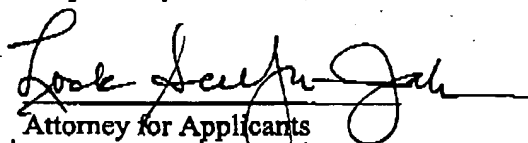
The present Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

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Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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